

September 2000

September 2000 Docket

Georgia State University College of Law

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The 1L Edition Docket

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Volume 10, No. 1

The Newspaper of the GSU College of Law Student Bar Association

September 2000 • 8 Pages

New tech fee could be \$75 well spent

By Terrance Manion
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

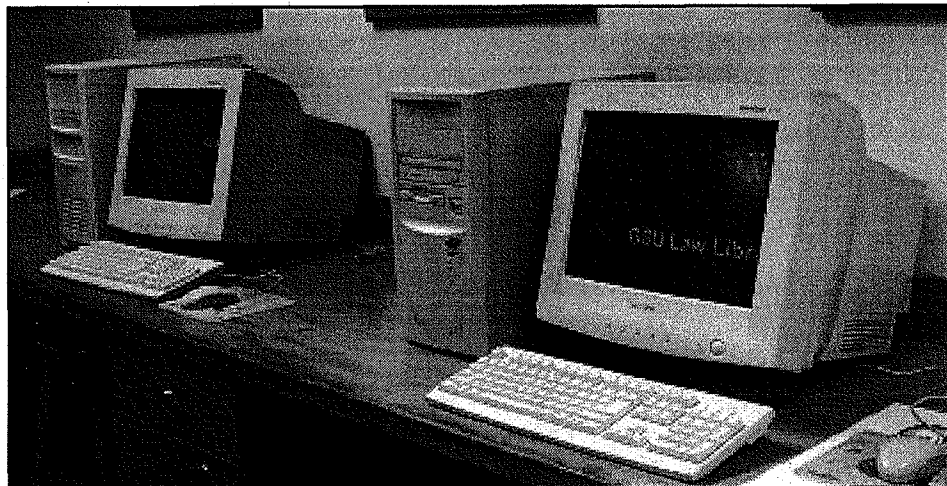
The adoption of student technology fees in colleges and universities has become increasingly pervasive over the past few years, and Georgia State University is no longer an exception to the trend. Upon returning this fall semester, GSU students as well as University of Georgia and Georgia Tech students were greeted with a technology fee of \$75 dollars a semester.

The primary rationale governing the implementation of the new fee is supporting student-computing needs as well as furthering the development and use

of technology in instruction. The funds raised by the fees would be used to replace equipment in open access labs and to further develop network infrastructure. Also, the fee can be used to finance one-time expenses such as wiring a classroom or developing Web-based resources for students.

The College of Law presented several proposals before the Technology Fee Recommendation Committee. These proposals ranged from increasing the number of wired carrels in the Law Library to installing e-mail stations in the common areas of the College of

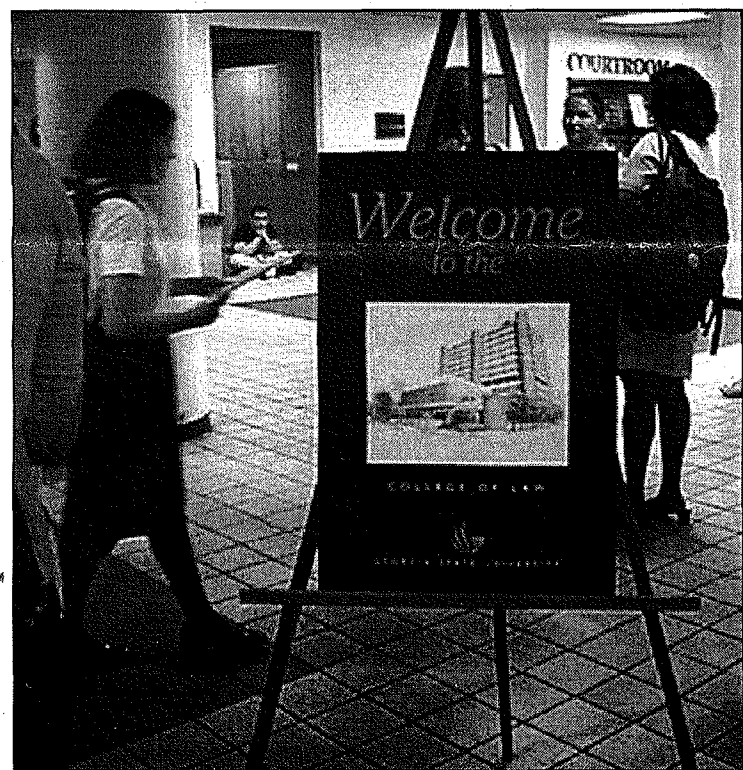
See **TECH FEES**, Page 8



Linda Daniels

Wired: If proposals are accepted, the College of Law could gain money for new computers in the library from a new technology fee imposed this fall.

Group orientation eases 1Ls' transition



Professor Patrick Wiseman

Getting oriented: Incoming 1Ls said working in groups with upper level students was one of the highlights of orientation this fall. The groups were implemented to help new students adjust to law school life.

Students rate new orientation format

By Trish Hinton
MANAGING EDITOR

Judy Smith, 2L, experienced a frustrating first few weeks of school last year as she tried to get adjusted and figure out the things that were not covered in orientation. So she took her ideas for creating orientation groups where upper-level students are paired with incoming 1Ls to Dr. Cheryl Jester-Jackson, director of admissions.

Jackson was more than happy to get on board. She too had been looking for a way to increase student involvement in the orientation and recruiting process. She thought the orientation groups, implemented for the first time this fall, created "a sense of positive school spirit and promoted the idea of giving back to the college."

The 1L orientation program is designed to soften the edges of the often harsh reality law school presents to some students. Presenting

concepts which will resurface in future substantive classes and introducing current programs and organizations available to students brings first years swiftly, yet gently, into the legal world.

The students' reactions to the week-long program have been generally positive. Probably because most of them actually attended the classes. Jackson described the group as lively but very serious. She stated that most of the students seemed to take even the most trivial programs seriously and felt they couldn't (or shouldn't) miss a moment.

Some students, particularly evening students, had problems with the schedule conflicting with other obligations. Jackson said she felt that the College of Law had worked out the best possible schedule, considering no one would want to come in on Saturday or stay at school late into the night. Evening students, unfortunately, often have a tough time attending organizational/informative meetings during the school year. Many groups hold two meetings — at noon and 5 p.m. — but the admissions office does not have that luxury for each program.

See **ORIENTATION**, Page 7

College of Law offers unique legal education

When I welcomed our first-year students during Orientation Week in August, I emphasized that Georgia State University College of Law is a very special place. We are the only law school in Georgia that provides an opportunity for students to enroll in either a part-time or a full-time program of legal education. Throughout our 18-year history we have taken pride in our diverse student body. Our students are mature and committed to make the most of their time spent here. With an average age of 27, many of our students bring valuable life experiences with them as they enter the classroom or engage in cyberspace dis-

cussions. When our students go to work in a law office as part of our Externship Program, they take their assignments seriously and impress our on-site supervisors with their knowledge and skills.

Faculty members as well as students make the college a unique setting for legal education. Because our faculty possess expertise in so many different areas, the College enjoys a rich curriculum. We offer courses in such specialized areas as Law and the Internet, Consumer Bankruptcy, International Criminal Law, and Growth Management, as well as a Legislation Seminar.

The faculty's accomplishments extend

far beyond the reach of the classroom. Through scholarly research and writing, faculty members develop new legal concepts that contribute to building a base of knowledge shared by both lawyers and academicians. Students participate in like endeavors by publishing the Georgia State University Law Review, developing symposia, and working as graduate research assistants. Last year the Law and Technology symposium brought nationally recognized experts to Georgia State to tackle cutting-edge legal issues created by developing technologies. Lawyers trying to ascertain the

See **WELCOME**, Page 8



Dean Janice C. Griffith

SBA Word

Advice to 1Ls: Try to enjoy yourselves

Welcome back! I hope that everyone had an excellent (and restful) summer and is ready for another year. Since this is the 1L edition of *The Docket*, I especially want to welcome all of our first year students to Georgia State and wish you the best of luck in the upcoming year.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Katie Elwart

I had the opportunity to meet and speak to some of you at Brief Encounter this summer and at orientation a few weeks ago. As I mentioned at these events, the Student Bar Association

is active in providing services and activities to support students in their first year of law school.

The SBA sponsors a "buddy system," where we pair up first year students with mentors in the upper classes. The recruitment for the buddy system is well under way, and all first year students should receive their mentor's information in the next few weeks. We have had unprecedented participation from upper class students this year!

The SBA has also created a "buddy pool," where first year students can contact any upper class students in the "buddy pool" with any questions they might have.

We also sponsored a program with Professor Whitebread, who is a national speaker for BarBri. Professor Whitebread taught an exam-writing skills session Sept. 14. This session

was open to all students, but highly recommended for 1Ls.

Additionally, elections for Senator positions on the SBA Board are this month. The elections are for Full-time senator, Part-time senator and

A bit of advice: Enjoy yourselves. The first year of law school is challenging and can be very hard, but it also can be rewarding and fun if you want it to be.

At-large senator.

The SBA held a Town Hall meeting the week before the elections where students could come and meet the SBA Board and the first-year candi-

dates introduced themselves.

Again, I just want to wish all of the 1L students the best of luck in the upcoming year.

A bit of advice: Enjoy yourselves. The first year of law school is challenging and can be very hard, but it also can be rewarding and fun if you want it to be.

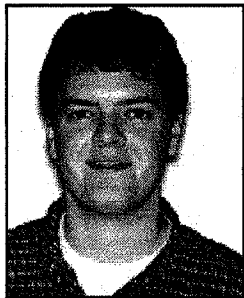
All of you came to law school for different reasons, but I assume it was generally to improve yourselves and have a good life.

My advice would be to not stop living that life in the process. Keep in mind that what you get back from your experience at GSU is what you put into it. I'm looking forward to getting to know you all better in the upcoming year.

Katie Elwart is president of the Student Bar Association for Georgia State University College of Law. Contact her at katieelwart@hotmail.com.

Student involvement equals improvement

Welcome, campers. Yes, it's another year of schooling for everyone at Camp Wannabe-lawyer. For some, it amounts to their last year here at camp — for others, they have roughly three more years to deal with. Nonetheless, each of us has had years upon years of education in the past. And almost certainly at some point in those past educational experiences, each of us has commented on exactly how the educational atmosphere and



SENATOR'S CORNER

Todd Boyce

the learning experience could be improved. Well, campers, here is your chance to act upon that oft dormant inclination — the secret at this particular institution of higher learning is that, for the most part, if you want improvement, you must get involved.

One of the most pressing areas that needs improvement these days is general campus security. As of this author's deadline, four incidents more than adequately illustrate the immediate need for serious improvements in this area.

The first occurred early in the first week of school when a 2L's locker was broken into with the perpetrator making off with \$162 worth of books. Then, during the early afternoon of Aug. 25, another 2L had several extremely valuable items taken from her second-floor locker. Next, an individual was apprehended by police for rifling through a law student's bag in one of the classrooms in the middle of the afternoon. Finally, as I'm sure all of you already know, sometime between the late evening hours of Aug. 28 and the early morning hours of Aug. 29, approximately 30 lockers on the first and second floors of the law school were broken into.

That time, to this author's knowledge, no books were stolen ... this time. But who's to say that the next time lockers are broken into that the entire contents will not be pilfered? Who's to say that the next time will just be broken into lockers?

The answer is simple ... we are. Now, I'm going to assume that we are not so naïve as to believe that we, as students, can completely and totally eradicate the presence of crime on law school premises. We need to face the

fact that Georgia State University College of Law is an urban school. And a certain amount of crime on the streets merely yards from our doors comes with the territory. However, what should not "come with the territory" is the weekly assault on the indoor environment of our law school.

The key to improving the problems with campus security is to get involved. Get involved with your student government. Come to the Student Bar Association meetings. Talk with your Senators. That is precisely what we are here to do — represent you in the law school. If you don't know who your Senators are, find out and then

[O]ne of the best ways to get involved is to actually be part of the group that represents us all in the law school — the Student Bar Association.

Speak with them. Put pressure on those making the real decisions in this area. Let them know that future incidents like these will not be tolerated and that something has got to be done to combat the apparently increasing security problems.

Now some of you felt strongly enough about our current security problems to sign a petition calling for increased security measures which was forwarded on to the administration.

However, that will only do so much. It is going to take further involvement on everyone's part to improve this part of our education experience. It is in

everyone's best interest to see that these problems are addressed and these improvements occur. Not only will it immediately improve the quality of our educational experience, it will enhance the reputation of our school for the future which, let's face it folks, means job opportunities.

Now, for all of you 1Ls, you may be saying, "Hey, I just got here and I've got a couple of hundred pages of reading due this week. How can I help improve the school?"

Well, campers, one of the best ways to get involved is to actually be part of the group that represents us all in the law school — the Student Bar Association.

Over the last few weeks, the 1L class has heard about SBA elections. Through these elections, you actually have two chances to effect these improvements that many want and believe that GSU College of Law desperately needs.

First, all of you should vote for the person who you feel would best represent the wants, needs, and opinions of the 1L class. Second, you had the opportunity to throw your hat in the ring and get yourself elected. During the third week in September, SBA hosted a Town Hall meeting at which you all had a chance to meet your SBA officers and the candidates for the 1L offices.

If you want improvements in our law school, get involved and either make the improvements yourself or convince those who can to make them for us.

Todd Boyce is a 2L Senator for the Student Bar Association for Georgia State University College of Law. Contact him at tsboyce99@yahoo.com.

Resume builder

Here's a line to add to your resume:

- Write stories for College of Law student newspaper

One great way to get involved in student activities is to help cover them. And involvement looks good on a resume!

The Docket needs students interested in writing stories, layout and editing. No experience required! Just an interest in making an impact on your school — not to mention recruiters.

Interested? Contact Linda Daniels at linda_daniels@mindspring.com.

Careers

ALUMNI PROFILE

Labor law 'always fascinating'

Carolyn A. Sawyer
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP

Year graduated from GSU:
May 1999

Other education:

I received a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Virginia in 1980, and a master's degree in public administration, also from UVA in 1981.

Firm practice and area: I am in the labor and employment group at Kilpatrick Stockton. I began working in August 1999.

What she does: The labor and employment practice area is very broad and diverse. I handle traditional federal employment discrimination claims, state law tort claims related to employment, breach of



Sawyer

employment contract claims, issues related to wage and hour, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, and any other issue related to employment. I also get involved in traditional labor law issues involving labor unions. In the year that I have been with Kilpatrick Stockton, I have been involved in litigation issues, including drafting pleadings and motions, and preparing position statements in response to discrimination charges filed with the EEOC. We recently won summary judgment in a case in which I wrote the summary judgment brief. That has been one of the highlights of my career to date. Of course, there is always legal research to do on a variety of issues.

How she got started: Practicing law is a second career for me. After I got my master's degree in 1981, I started a career in human resources in state government, where I worked in various state agencies for 16 years. I had always been interested in law, but decided not to go on to law school after college. As a human resources professional, I got involved in many

legal issues, such as EEOC charges, sexual harassment complaints, disciplinary hearings, and wage and hour compliance. As a human resource director, I was always advising managers on disciplinary action to take against employees, always with an eye toward legal compliance. My involvement in these issues renewed my interest in pursuing law as a career. I continued to work full-time, and pursued my law degree as a part-time student at GSU. Because of my background, practicing employment law was a natural career progression for me, and my past experience has been extremely useful in law practice.

What she likes best about her job:

I love the diversity in the labor and employment field. It covers such a wide array of issues. The facts are always fascinating, even if they are sometimes disgusting, such as in some egregious sexual harassment cases. I also work with a group of very talented attorneys, and so I am learning a lot.

See **ALUMNI**, Page 5

CSO CALENDAR

Fall Semester Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Thursday & Friday
8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

Additionally CSO will open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the following Saturdays:
Oct. 21 and Nov. 18

Appointments are available after hours for evening or part-time students if you call in advance to make an appointment.

Fall Recruiting

Fall Recruitment officially started with the first deadline for resume drops Aug. 30. There are some rules that students need to heed in order to participate in Fall Recruiting:

- You must re-register with CSO each year. Even if you registered last year, you need to re-register before it is "legal" for you to submit resumes for our fall recruiting programs. Forms are available in CSO.

- Also, we request that you complete a form indicating where you worked last summer. Forms also available in CSO.

Deadlines and rules are important.

If you don't currently own a calendar, we recommend that you get one immediately. Where Fall Recruiting is concerned, there are no second chances. The resumes are Federal Expressed at or about 5 p.m. to the employers whose deadline occurs on that date.

Things to check often:

The CSO Easel in the Student Lounge area of the first floor.

It will have the most up-to-date information regarding recruiting. It will have the newest changes and/or additions of employers added to the recruiting process.

The Purple notebook in CSO.

When employers start selecting students for interviews, the turnaround is really quick so:

- Students need to check the notebook often to see if they've been selected.
- This is especially important if the time of day you interview matters because it is first-come, first served.
- If you work and can't come in, then call and if you've been selected, we can sign you up.

Upcoming Fall Events:

- First Year Student CSO Orientation is Oct. 23-Nov. 2
- First-year students become eligible to utilize CSO placement services Nov. 1.
- First-year students may initiate contact with legal employers Dec. 1
- NAPIL Public Interest Law Conference & Career Fair
- Career Conversations Series
- Annual Legal Alternatives Career Fair
- Legal Connections Series
- Public Interest "Festival" Week
- Third Annual Judicial Job Fair
- Evening Students' Career Programming

See **CSO**, Page 5

The job search begins at CSO

By Vickie M. Brown

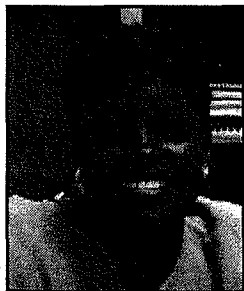
DIRECTOR OF CAREER SERVICES

The first order of business is to let you, the 1Ls, know how delighted we are that you have finally arrived on campus.

Who are we, really? The Career Services Office (CSO) is one of several student services units in place within the law school to make available a plethora of services that will make your tenure at GSU College of Law as enjoyable and rewarding as possible.

A dedicated professional career services staff is ready and waiting to assist you. The staff includes myself, Program Planner & Specialist Nina Thomas, and Senior Administrative Secretary Regina Bryant.

Our mission is simple: to assist students in developing and achieving their short-term and long-term career goals and objectives. This is accomplished through the myriad career services offered, which include:



Brown

- individual resume and cover letter development and review,
- tailored career counseling and job search strategy consultations,
- employment opportunities gained through job listings posted on CSO Web site,
- job fairs and networking connections,
- access to a variety of career resource materials housed in the Resource Center and available for check-out,
- invitations to career education workshops,
- seminars, roundtable discussions and forums.

Additionally, the CSO publishes a monthly student newsletter and Calendar of Events.

A special 1L newsletter edition will be distributed to mailboxes in early October packed with information to prepare you for all the exciting programs and events that await.

Now is the perfect time to alert you to some important dates that you should mark on your calendar: Oct. 23-Nov. 2 all full-time and non-working part-time 1Ls will take part in the Career Services Orientation Sessions. First year "working" part-time students will participate in orientation fall semester of second year. Nov. 1 all CSO placement services are made

available to 1Ls and Dec. 1 is the magic date that 1Ls may initiate contact with employers about summer legal employment. But ... you don't have to wait to begin attending career information programs. The CSO hosts a number of education programs that explore career practice areas and the legal profession in general. 1L attendance at such events is highly encouraged and supported. You'll know which programs they are by watching

... Dec. 1 is the magic date that 1Ls may initiate contact with employers about summer legal employment.

for the appearance of "1Ls" in the announcement title on flyers and in e-mails.

The Orientation Session is so important that we believe it deserves more elaboration. Each session is purposely limited to groups of 12 to 15 students to allow more interaction between presenter and students and the chance for students to ask lots of questions. During the orientation sessions students will receive a comprehensive career

Organizations

P.A.D. brings home best district awards

Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International held its 53rd Biennial convention in Miami Beach, Fla., from Aug. 2-6.

Anne-Marie Motto, Russell Chapter Justice, and Lori Browne, Russell Chapter Clerk, were in attendance to represent Georgia State University School of Law.

The Russell Chapter won awards for 50 percent increase in membership and Best Chapter in District 17, which also includes Emory, University of Georgia, Cumberland and the University of Alabama.

In addition, District 17 was voted best district in the entire international organization. Judge Joe Brown was present at the awards ceremony.

This was a great honor for Georgia State, and P.A.D. looks forward to continuing its tradition of "service to the profession, the student, the law school and the community."

Anyone interested in joining P.A.D. please contact Stephanie Everett at severett24@yahoo.com, or any P.A.D. officer.

— Anne-Marie Motto



Special

P.A.D. meeting: Justice Anne-Marie Motto (far left) and Clerk Lori Browne (center, back) attended the Phi Alpha Delta 53rd Biennial convention in Miami.

Organization Contacts

Here is a list of most of the active organizations at the College of Law. A contact person/officer is listed with each organization with his or her e-mail address.

Asian American Law Student Association (AALSA)

Dan Dewoskin (gs12ded@panther.gsu.edu)

Association of Women Law Students (AWLS)

Sarah Moorhead (smoorhe@aol.com)

Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

Mawuli Davis (jamdavis@bellsouth.net)

Christian Legal Society (CLS)

Quetia Milledge (gs01qbm@panther.gsu.edu)

Environmental Law Society (ELS)

Jonathan Miller (gs22jrm@panther.gsu.edu)

Intellectual Property Law Society (IPLS)

Camille Heath (gs21clh@panther.gsu.edu)

International and Comparative Law Society (ICLS)

Brooke Ferenchak (gs03baf@panther.gsu.edu)

Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA)

Alexis Freeman (gs04aff@panther.gsu.edu)

Law Review

Jaime McMahon (jaimemcmahon@altavista.com)

Lesbian and Gay Law Students Association (LGLSA)

Andy Ordyna (ordyna@gateway.net)

Moot Court

Stacey Pineo (gs16smp@panther.gsu.edu)

Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity (P.A.D.)

Anne-Marie Motto (anniem@justice.com)

Public Interest Law Association (PILA)

Cheryl Barnes (cb1@mindspring.com)

Sports and Entertainment Law Society (SELS)

Anna Humnicky (ahumnic@bellsouth.net)

Student Bar Association (SBA)

Katie Elwart (katieelwart@hotmail.com)

The Docket

Linda Daniels (linda_daniels@mindspring.com)

ABA/LSD Representative

Trish Hinton (thintongsu@yahoo.com)

Student Health Lawyers Association (SHLA)

Trish Farnham (farnhamandb@mindspring.com)

Student Trial Lawyers Association (STLA)

Felicia McKibben (fmckibben@hotmail.com)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 28

SELS Mentor Mixer from 7-9 p.m. ONLY SELS members invited. Contact a SELS officer for more information.

September (date to be announced)

AWLS is planning to sponsor a Golf Clinic. More information soon.

SELS will host speaker, a sports law attorney, Evan Appel, from Long, Aldridge & Norman

Saturday, Oct. 7

ABA/SBA will have a Work-A-Day volunteer service project in conjunction with Hands On Atlanta's service day. Start your pro bono work early. Look for details about the project soon. Contact Trish Hinton to volunteer or suggest project ideas.

October (date to be announced)

SELS will host a speaker from the music industry. Watch for signs and e-mail with details.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SELS

SELS welcomes back its advisor, Professor Jack Williams, who spent the 1999-2000 academic year at St. Johns. Check out the SELS Web site (law.gsu.edu/sels) for general information about SELS, upcoming events, and much more.

SELS is selling T-shirts, \$12 for M,L,XL; \$15 for XXL. Contact a SELS officer or check out our website

SELS 2000-2001 Officers:

Aimee Stern, President, aimeelane@aol.com
Anna Humnicky, Vice President, ahumnic@bellsouth.net
Allie Fennell, Secretary, allicat@ix.netcom.com
Dan DeWoskin, Treasurer, lawman@dandewoskin.com
Will Davis, Part-time Liaison, wdjmusic@yahoo.com

First Monday 2000

Monday, Oct. 2, 7-8:30 p.m.

Speakers Auditorium, GSU Student Center

Small meetings at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Room 170

This campaign promoting education and action to end gun violence is coordinated by the Alliance for Justice, in conjunction with Physicians for Social Responsibility.

It will include a screening of the film "America: Up In Arms."

The ABA, PILA, and the Career Services Office are hosting small meetings at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. in Room 170. At both meetings, organizers will show a video on gun violence and supply attendees with the information necessary to begin participation in the campaign. The video is approximately 25 minutes long. Refreshments will be provided at both meetings courtesy of the Career Services Office and Westlaw.

Law students rise to their challenges

Welcome to law school. You are embarking on what will be for many of you the most challenging things you've ever undertaken. You'll have lots of questions, no doubt, like what is this future interest business, and what are these oral argument rounds I've heard I'll face in the spring.

Try not to worry too much. You'll figure everything out as you go along.

If you had a career prior to coming to law school, you already know that. But I say it anyway, because you may forget you know it. You may forget because you're very busy and possibly feeling a little overwhelmed by all you have to do



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Linda Daniels

and learn. As you cram your head with knowledge of the law, it seems other little things have to leave your brain to make room.

I forgot a lot of things my first year. For example, I forgot to pay nearly all of my bills the first month of school. I thought I had paid them, but come late September, the late notices started rolling in. Sure enough, I unearthed a neat stack of bills ready for mailing under a pile of papers on my desk.

A friend of mine who had gotten married right before beginning law school even forgot to mail some thank-you notes she had dutifully written. She found them a year later in a box of law school books and papers.

I forgot birthdays and anniversaries. I forgot what shows were on the Thursday night lineup. I forgot what eight hours of sleep felt like.

The challenge to keep up with it all is especially hard for working students.

The fact is, working and going to school is hard. Some students may disagree with

me, but I believe it's harder than being a full time student because you have to juggle so many responsibilities. In addition to law school, you may have a family and children, a household to keep at least livable and a full-time job. It's a lot to deal with. So I'll try to help you out. I've surveyed some of the part-time students who I believe have been the most successful at keeping all the balls in the air, AND doing nothing short of fantastic in law school. Top grades, law review, moot court, the whole nine yards. I asked them how they structured their time their first year, when they studied, whether they found tutorials and study groups helpful, how they studied for exams and how they kept up with all they had to do.

They were very generous with their responses, which I know incoming part-time students will find helpful. I wish I had read this advice in my first year.

Lest you think law school is all work

and no fun, it's not. For part-time students, it may be hard to put in the extra effort to become involved in school activities, but it is worth it.

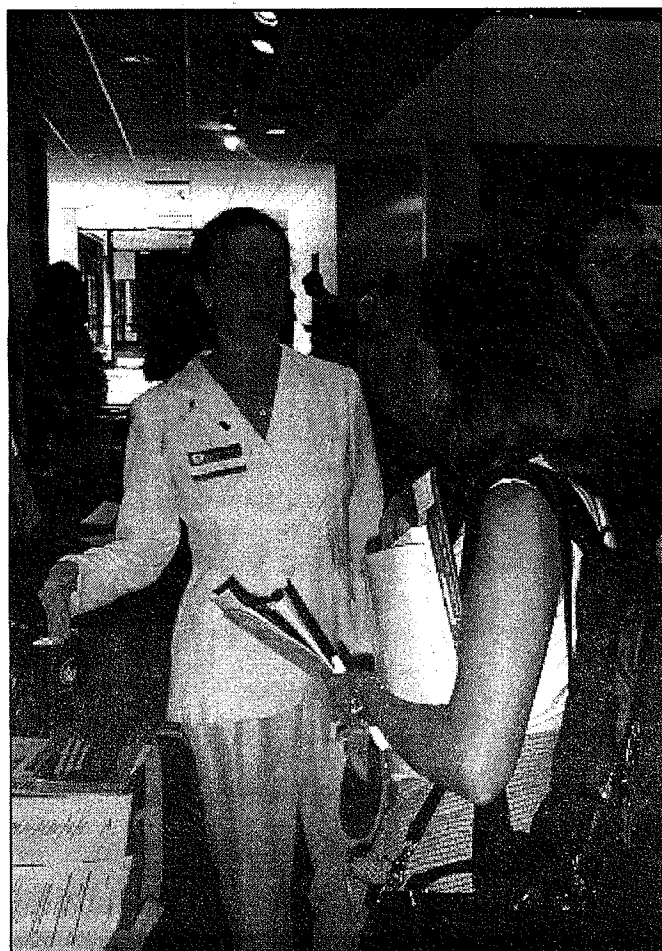
If you don't believe me now, maybe by the spring, you'll be ready to relax a bit and get more involved in school activities. Just in time for Law Week. The College of Law hosts Law Week later in the spring semester as a way to showcase some of the positive aspects of being a part of the legal community. It culminates with the Barristers Ball, which is a great opportunity to kick up your heels and have a good time with all your new friends.

The greatest thing I've learned in law school is that you are capable of doing so much more than you ever dreamed.

So don't forget, it's a lot to juggle, but you'll figure out how to get the important things done, including having fun along the way.

Linda Daniels is editor-in-chief of *The Docket*, the newspaper for the GSU Student Bar Association. Contact her at linda_daniels@mindspring.com.

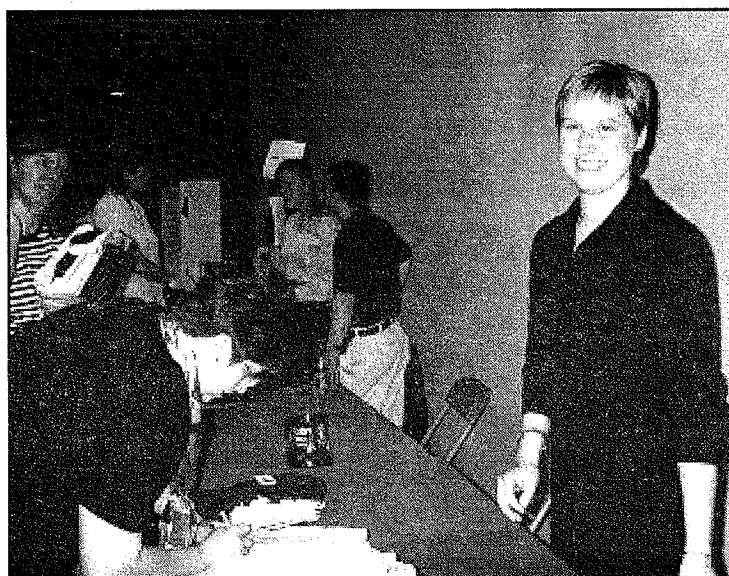
Scenes from the marketplace



Representatives of GSU College of Law student organizations were on hand during orientation week to introduce incoming 1Ls to their groups and answer questions.

Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity Justice Anne-Marie Motto (left) tells a 1L about PAD's activities and benefits.

Sports and Entertainment Law Society Vice President Anna Humnicky (below) signs up new recruits.



Alumni

Continued from Page 3

The prospects for law graduates in her market:

I don't really know the answer to that question. The firm is always looking for bright and talented law students, and we have a very active recruiting program. The market appears to be very good.

Advice to students interested in labor and employment law:

My advice is the same for students interested in any practice area. Believe it or not, you actually use some of the stuff you learn in law

school. Get a well-rounded and balanced law school education. Take classes that will matter in your career. I took all the employment-related courses, and I still refer to my casebook, class notes, and outlines from those classes as a foundation. I have used information from Conflict of Laws and Federal Courts more than I ever imagined I would. And, I wish I had paid more attention in Contracts, because I didn't realize how intertwined employment law and contract law are.

There is a lot that law school doesn't teach you, but you will learn everything you need in due time. For now, focus on doing well and getting a job. §

CSO

Continued from Page 3

services manual filled with a variety of information—everything you really need to launch your summer job search, and more.

Students also will learn more about CSO specialized programs for 1Ls: Public Services Law Net (PSLawNet), Mentor Program, Shadow Program, Governor's Legal Summer Internship Program.

It is our hope that you have been provided with information that has better acquainted you with "your" Career Services Office.

We, the CSO staff, very much look forward to the beginning of your lifelong relationship with the College of Law. §

The Docket

Volume 10, No. 1
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EDITORIAL

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The views and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty and student body of the College of Law, the SBA Board or the editorial staff of *The Docket*.

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On Campus

Sharpen your edge with these study tips

I am certain for the majority of you 1Ls, the first weeks have gone by swimmingly. You have all of your books and have briefed every case. You have formed study groups with the smartest, most personable people in your class.

And RWA is only one more chance for you to showcase your remarkable legal writing style.

No matter how many geniuses Dr. Cheryl Jester-Jackson, director of admissions, is able to recruit, there are always at least one or two of you still floundering even after a few weeks have passed. (That number is probably more like 95 percent of you).

For those who find themselves in this unfortunate category, please read on. Some of you are quite busy and as fabulous as this article may be, do not have time to read it in its entirety. For you, I set out a few short definitions which you may refer to at your leisure.

Brief:

1. (n.) written description of a case which includes the party's name, court,



1L SPECIAL REPORT

Trish Hinton

date, judge (especially if it is a Supreme Court case), important facts of the case, where in the progress of a trial and appeal the case is, issue the court is deciding in the form of a question, court's answer, the court's rationale for that answer, and any other significant comment about the case you feel like including.

Note: For most cases, you should get these down to a page or less, but that might take some time.

2. (v.) a professor may ask you to "brief a case" which does not mean to start writing, but start talking about the same information that went into the written brief.

3. (n.) like the briefs you hear about on TV and the movies; it is the written argument to a higher court when a case is being appealed. You will both write one and argue it this spring in RWA. It is both not brief (25 pages) and not brief enough (your first draft will probably be 35 pages and you'll have to cut every good argument to make it fit).

Memo:

(n.) again, not at all short like it sounds (approximately 23 pages), yet not long enough. This is a primarily neutral document which merely presents the issues, facts, and law relevant to a case and an unbiased analysis, concluding with the most probable outcome. I didn't think people really

wrote these in real life, but they do.

Outline:

(n.) a document that you create, which compiles and condenses all of the information you need from a class. Use the casebook and any supplemental texts, your reading notes, your class notes, and anything else you can find (and are allowed to use) to help fill in an outline of the class. Some professors allow students to use outlines during the exam. Thus, you want something that is both thorough and easy to follow, but not so long that you are sifting through too many pages. Some student organizations like Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity and the Black Law Students Association provide access to a "bank" of old outlines for their members. These are only useful if you do your own outline, too. If your professor does not object to the use of commercial outlines, then you may want to check the SBA Bookswap on the second floor for a commercially prepared and sold outline. Consider the source and never substitute someone else's work for your own.

Study group:

(n.) nonmandatory form of review. DO NOT JUST PAIR UP WITH YOUR BEST FRIENDS. You don't want to be unproductive from the start. Set a designated study time to meet.

Discuss questions that came up in class or during your reading which you did not get answered. If no one in your group can come up with an answer, appoint someone to meet with or e-mail the professor and report back to the group. During the second half of the semester, bring review problems to study group to practice answering exam-like questions.

There are many commercially prepared exam questions available at the Bookswap. Also, there are review questions available on-line. Check with your professor or with someone who took the class for the best source.

Meet where you have access to drinks/snacks. Otherwise, everyone will leave early. Get a good cross-section of people in your group, but not too many people.

Don't wait until the middle of the semester to try to form a group, you won't get in one. If you are not in a study group, you will still be fine. Find one or two people who will review one or two classes with you once in a while and talk with your professor when you have questions.

General study tips

With those definitions out of the way, let me leave you with just a few more general study tips:

I don't care how much noise you can deal with while you study, if the

See **STUDY TIPS**, Next Page

Procrastination habit can be unlearned

Procrastination is a sophisticated system of avoidance for weak-willed, yellow-bellied cowards, of whom I am the reigning monarch. Those of us who are plagued by this cursed affliction can (and do) find

more pressing matters to which to attend than schoolwork. In our undergraduate days, we wrote our papers the day before they were due and were rewarded with good grades. Entrance into law school is the icing on the cake for those of us who love and fear the pressure associated with waiting until the last minute — we waited until the last minute to turn in our applications. But Entrance into law school should also be the death of our procrastinating spirits.

Gary A. Muneke, J.D., author of *How*



1L SPECIAL REPORT

Trez Drake

to *Succeed in Law School*, states that law students "often procrastinate when we have many things to do; we make too many commitments because we can't make decisions." In addition, "[l]aw school imposes an entire set of inevitable demands that can only be controlled, but not eliminated."

For full-time students, there is a minimum of 250 pages per week to read, plus cases to brief, text notes to take, outlining to begin and don't forget to eat, sleep, go to class, talk to your family and friends, and have fun. How on earth can you get all of this stuff done? Read on!

1. Evaluate and write down your long-term goals. What do you want to do with your life and your career? Is law school the best way to achieve your goal? If not, what benefits can be gained from having a law degree? (Use this whenever you feel like giving up, and believe me you will!)

2. Prioritize. Obviously a full-time job and/or a family comes first. However, if your main commitment is to law school, then law school needs to be your primary focus. The local watering hole will not go bankrupt with-

out your patronage. Buffy and Ally will never know if you watch them on videotape or in the summer reruns. Your messy room will happily wait until you have completed your assignments. It's a sacrifice, but it has to be done! (And, you have finally made some decisions!)

3. Buy a planner and use it —(but don't lose it). Schedule your time so that you can spread out evenly everything that you have to do. Start by writing in your classes and commitments. Then schedule study time in those gaping holes in your schedule. Then, take your planner with you and follow the plan. And, when you finish your work, reward yourself!

4. Make a checklist. Make a list every morning of what you need to accomplish during the day. Most, if not all, law student suffer from short term memory loss. Fight it by making a list. And, buy a big marker so you can cross off everything that you accomplish! (It's a good feeling.)

5. Keep up with your assignments. If you are behind in your readings, do your current assignments first. Then, catch up on the previous work. Believe me, it's the worst feeling to have

to read hundreds of pages *before* beginning to study for the exam! Do whatever it takes to catch up — except those canned briefs; they can't teach you how to think!

6. Ask for help! If you have trouble understanding the assignments, talk to your professor and get suggestions on study tools. If you have trouble settling down to study, find a study buddy who will *not* talk to you while she studies. If you are having trouble in property or torts, go to the tutorials. Do whatever it takes to get understanding.

Scheduling is the least creative thing that happened to time, but without a plan you could be on your way out of law school in less than a year — honestly!

Procrastination can be unlearned, but it requires more than good intentions. Overcoming this learning impediment requires positive action.

We can't become organized overnight. But we can take baby steps toward our goal — finishing law school and finding a job.

Trez Drake is associate editor of *The Docket*. Contact her at trezle@ivillage.com.

Part-timers reveal secrets of success

Part-time students often juggled the added responsibility of job, family and school. The Docket surveyed part-time 2Ls in the top of their class about how they handled the juggling act their first year. Part-time 2L Gregory Jones had the following comments. Additionally, Jones said he welcomed incoming 1Ls' questions. He can be reached at gjoness@quantlaw.com.

How did you structure your time your first year? In my opinion, it has never been more important to get to know yourself. Sure, you can buy myriad books on study schemes, time management techniques, and the like, but the bottom line is that you must effectively implement what works for YOU. What works for others may or may not work for you. Take some time to evaluate previous academic experiences, identify what has worked in the past, and go with it! For example, if you have found that hand writing outlines has been effective in helping you to recall material, it may be that typing nice neat briefs is not an efficient use of your time.

I'm sure you're finding that merely preparing for class takes a lot of time. And if you haven't heard yet, preparing for exams is a completely different exercise. For me, that meant structuring my semester so that I was preparing for class and finding a comfort zone with

the material and then turning to exam prep during about the last third of the semester. By the way, if you're just not getting the material yet, don't worry. Not many of us did. You have to learn the language and the context first and then you'll buckle down and tackle the substantive material.

How many hours did you study for each class? A lot. How many? I'm not quite sure. But I found that I needed to spend at least two hours outside class for every hour in class (of course, this was not always achieved). And this doesn't count exam prep, which for me consumed every waking hour for the weeks preceding the exam period.

When did you study? When ever I had a few moments. Try to have materials like outlines with you at all times so that you can glance over them when you get a lull in the day. However, again, know thyself. I study most effectively in the evening. Studying first thing in the morning, a strategy used successfully by some of my colleagues, would have been useless for me.

Did you make a study schedule? As for preparation for class, my class schedule pretty much dictated the when and where. However, I did make study schedules for exam prep. Do so early. When I sat down to construct my schedule, I often was mortified to discover

how little time I actually had. Fear is VERY motivating.

Did you procrastinate or stick to your schedule? Oh, I'm the KING procrastinator. Procrastination is my rule rather than my exception. My modus operandi requires the pressure of looming deadlines to get me going. I used to beat myself up about it. But now I just realize that it's the way I tick and I've man-

Try to have materials like outlines with you at all times so that you can glance over them when you get a lull in the day.

aged to work with the personality trait fairly successfully.

Were you part of a study group? NO. Study groups are a waste of time — for me. I don't even study with my wife, who also is in law school. You may find that talking through issues with a carefully selected group is productive, but there is NO substitute for slugging through the material on your own. I have to have extended periods of intense, quiet, solitude. On that subject, you may find that it works for you to study at home. But if you find that there is too much at home to distract you, go to

the library. And when you're there, look around at those who are studying there. You'll find some of the College's best students.

Did you go to tutorials? Some yes, some no. In general, tutorials are designed for students that need extra help. They are not for everyone. But law students, being the competitive bunch they are, hate the thought they might miss an edge, so many of the best students attend. You have to judge for yourself. I think that the AEP makes an outstanding contribution to some students. I found some of the tutorials helpful, and others not so helpful.

How did you study for exams? Hard. **What are some tips for keeping up with everything — work, home, school?** Again, know yourself. Know your limits. You'll need to go to a movie, go to dinner, do some shopping, or spend some other quality time with a loved one frequently during the semester. Without these breaks, you will simply implode before you finish. Work hard, play hard. But when you are working, make it clear to those around you that this work time is sacred.

As for keeping up with everything — you won't. Just prioritize and make sure the important things get done.

More tips
from 2L
part-timers
on Page 8

Study Tips

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TV is on, you are not giving civil procedure your full attention.

- Highlighting an entire case will not help you when you get to class and need to know the reasoning behind the concurring judge's opinion. Nor will it help when you are summarizing *Lucy v. Zehmer* for your contracts outline. Notations and highlighting in your text are more helpful if used sparingly.

- Take notes on paper (or computer). You are more likely to only write down what is necessary, while highlighting is so easy and fun (it's like coloring) that people get carried away. Also, if you use a green highlighter or more than two colors, no one will buy your

book back from the Bookswap.

- Meet all deadlines, even if nothing is due. If Professors Hensel and Chivaro tell you that by this date you should be done with your research and well into writing your memo, believe them. They are not paid to tell you lies. They are also not paid to try to keep you ahead of schedule. So, don't think that those deadlines include some sort of flex time where you can give or take a week. (This applies equally to Professors Bennett and Tarrance).

- Ask questions as soon as you are confused. Ask everyone, but if you are still confused, do not hesitate to ask the professor. Grading is blind, so even if you are annoying, they won't know it's you on the exam.

- Don't skip class.

- Don't come late to class. But if your options are skip or arrive late, arrive late.

- Don't fall asleep in class. Slip out and go to the bathroom or to the snack machine for a break, but do not let the professors see you sleeping in class. It's rude, and they won't want to answer your questions. Trust me, I was a teacher.

- Don't come to class unprepared. Not only will the professor remember, but so will your classmates. But if your options are skip or come unprepared, come unprepared. You can read later, but the professor will only cover the material once.

- Saturdays are glorious, but if you are having trouble with property or torts, go to the tutorials which will be

offered on Saturdays.

Law school and being a lawyer may be important to most of you. It does not define you. Not doing well or doing well does not make you a better or worse person nor does it make you more or less likeable.

All you can give it is what you have. So, after tucking in the kids (or the kittens), after you have Sunday lunch with Granny, and after you do whatever makes you the person you are, give law school everything else you have.

If you choose not to heed this advice, just be prepared to graduate from law school and maybe find that all you have is another degree.

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Orientation

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Several students complained that the law school did not provide enough basic resource information on things such as parking, the health clinic, insurance, the sports center, a map of downtown and places of interest in Atlanta.

They agreed the information need not be in a program session format, but possibly a series of handouts or pamphlets to which they could have access. New to the Atlanta area, some students had hoped to find out about places to eat and banks in the downtown area and on campus.

The two biggest problems arose from the lack of instruction on case-briefing and the financial aid loan counseling that came too late for students to get their money on time, said students.

One student suggested more ice-breaker activities early in the day and

early in the week before some schedules get too hectic. On the other hand, the majority of students seemed to not need the "touchy-feely" programs that were available, let alone more.

The stress management session seemed to cause more stress than it relieved, because 1Ls said they were not stressed out yet. One suggestion was to move that program to later in the semester when they are so busy and forget to breathe and need the reminder.

Overwhelmingly, though, the comments were positive. The class seemed to love Jackson. The introduction to law classes were a great "refresher" for students like Walleeta Barnes. Barnes said that being reminded of basic tenants of the law and government made her feel more confident about her ability to grasp knowledge of the law, like maybe she did make the right decision to come to

law school.

The incoming students agreed on two things: 1) Free stuff is good. 2) Having the 2Ls and 3Ls around during that first week was an essential part of making the transition more bearable.

Jackson hopes to see student involvement continue to grow, especially as enrollment climbs. Enrollment has risen 4 percent since last year, with an entering class of 207 at the end of orientation. Numbers also are up for minority students (2 percent). The gender balance has maintained a steady level with women still outnumbering men slightly.

Jackson said she wants the 1Ls now to start planning on participating in orientation as group leaders next year. Current plans for the class of 2004 include improving the orientation for transfer/guest students and expanding the orientation handbook. §

Orientation Woes

1. Scheduling conflicts for part-time students
2. Not enough case-briefing guidance
3. Financial aid
4. Lack of resource information
5. More structure for small orientation groups

Kudos

1. Free stuff
2. Access to 2Ls and 3Ls
3. Good overview of legal concepts
4. Meeting professors early lessens intimidation
5. Dr. Cheryl Jackson

2Ls: Setting priorities a must

After honing time-management skills, part-time 2Ls share more strategies for succeeding in the first year of law school.

On structuring time:

2L: I made school a priority. Whether or not this is wise, I can't say. 99 percent of my free time (including holidays) was devoted to school.

2L: I tried to keep school and work separate. When I left work, I tried to focus on school. Although at times it was hard and even frustrating, I tried to spend most of my weekends studying. It is important to be able to manage your time wisely. Remember everything you have to do, how many hours are in a day and about how much time it takes to read for everything. Always remember to take a few hours to relax and maintain your sanity.

On class prep:

2L: During the semester, I probably spent about four hours each week preparing for each substantive class. Of course, RWA doesn't factor into this at all. During exam time, I used my vacation time at work for study days. A lot of part-time students don't or can't do this, but I really found it helpful because I was able to focus only on exam preparation and not have to worry about work.

2L: I read weekly, reviewed every two to four weeks with a study group, went

to tutorials every other weekend.

When they hit the books:

2L: Primarily on the weekends and at night if I didn't get everything done on the weekend.

2L: Weekends were (and still are) key. After getting up at 6 or 6:30 a.m. and working a full day, studying after a night class just isn't an option. It's hard not to feel a little sorry for yourself when your friends and family are going to movies, going to parties, or doing other fun stuff and you are stuck home studying. It's important to do SOME fun things. Sometimes if you don't give yourself a break you'll explode. But for me, school means sacrificing most weekend social activities. It ain't pretty.

On procrastination:

2L: I was very disciplined about studying. I would even try to get a little bit of it out of the way on Friday night.

2L: I've always been a procrastinator.

2L: I am definitely NOT a procrastinator. I must say, doing outlines took much longer than I expected. And the time it took to study for exams took much longer than I expected. Graduate school was pretty easy in comparison. First semester I waited until Thanksgiving to do outlines (in part because I had no idea what people were talking about when they talked about outlines). Another semester I did ongoing

outlines. I'm not sure which was better. Later in the semester, things seem to come together in a way they don't in the beginning. And even with an ongoing outline, it still took a long time to put together a final studying outline.

On study groups:

2L: Only immediately prior to exams. When I met with my study group, everyone had already prepared their individual outlines. We used the study group as an opportunity to make sure that we hadn't missed anything or to clear up confusing topics. We did NOT use the study group to create our outlines. I feel that sorting through the material, digesting it, and organizing it in a way that makes sense to you is a crucial process to go through during exam preparation. If someone else does this for you, you are missing out on a valuable exam prep tool.

2L: Only during exams. There is not enough time during the year to get together with anyone.

2L: I highly recommend it if the group is small and you can get through the work, griping about school or anything else is a waste of time.

On exam prep:

2L: I would always do my outline and then get together with a study group and go over our outlines before exams. It is always good to try to do professor's old exams to get an idea of what they are looking for.

On handling it all:

2L: 1) Keep lists. 2) Stay organized. 3) Prioritize. I put school above everything else my first year. Decide if this is right for you. You cannot give 100% to school, family and work. Decide what your priorities are and live by your decision. Everyone must make sacrifices to be a part-time law student when you have a family and work.

2L: Set a schedule. Keep it as best you can. Remember that you can't do everything. Balance. Make sure you go out once a month even if just for a few hours to have a meal with an old friend, exercise to release stress and remember to keep life and the important things in perspective.

Tech fees

Continued from Page 1

Law. Each of the proposals were presented, evaluated, and ultimately approved for immediate funding, approved for funding when available, or denied funding all together by the Technology Fee Recommendation Committee.

Three of the proposals presented by the College of Law were approved for immediate funding, including expanding wire carrels in the Law Library, replacing one third of the computers in the computer and instructional labs, and installing e-mail stations in the common areas of the College of Law.

Two proposals were approved for future funding. One of the proposals would

create a technology classroom complete with network ports, smart podium and a projection unit. The other proposal, presented together with Pullen Library, provides digital microfiche readers to replace the existing readers. The funding for these two proposals is estimated to be available by late spring or early summer.

The Technology Fee Recommendation Committee — composed of students, faculty and staff — presented recommendations to the Associate Provost for IS&T that in turn will present recommendations to the Provost and President. If the recommendations are adopted, the College of Law may be able to begin implementation as early as winter break. §

Welcome

Continued from Page 1

legislative intent of Georgia statutes, claim that the "Peach Sheets," prepared and published by Law Review members, is the first stop in their research.

The law school's prime location provides many opportunities. In downtown Atlanta, the seat of Georgia's state government and the home of many start-up technology companies making Atlanta one of the nation's hottest markets, we interact with both the public and private sectors. We are within walking distance of the Federal District Court, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the regional headquarters of federal agencies, state courts, state governmental agencies, and the state capitol. We take advantage of this proximity through our Externship Program and in the number of excellent speakers we attract to our campus. Cathy Cox, Georgia's Secretary of State, had only to walk a few

minutes from her office to the College of Law to kick off Law Week last spring with an address that stressed the importance of civic participation and commitment.

The law school is a place where new things happen. Faculty members, as well as graduates, tackle cutting edge issues. A number of our professors have taught new courses that they developed with their own materials because they were the first in their field to do so. The Legal XML Workgroup (www.legalxml.org/), which grew from 75 members in July 1999 to 540 a year later, began at Georgia State with funding from the Georgia Courts Automation Commission. Todd Vincent, a 1997 College of Law graduate, worked from one of our sixth floor offices to promote the idea of open, non-proprietary XML (eXtensible Markup Language) standards for legal documents.

As members of our student body, you also make things happen. Congratula-

tions to our Student Bar Association on receipt of the Southeast Regional SBA of the Year Award! Our SBA competed against 48 law schools to win this award from the American Bar Association's Law Student Division. The award is based on how well SBA members work as a team and on their ability to interact with the faculty, the administration, and the local legal and non-legal community. The Division also evaluates the quality of a SBA's events and programs and the extent to which the SBA addresses student concerns.

To keep our law school a special place that provides inspiration and knowledge for the legal profession, all of us must share our special talents with each other and with the greater community. We certainly are off to a good start this year with the SBA's receipt in July of the Regional SBA of the Year Award. By the end of the year I'm sure that we will celebrate additional achievements.

—Janice C. Griffith, Dean

Strictly Hearsay

Q: What did you, as an incoming 1L, think about the new orientation format implemented this fall, which grouped 1Ls with upper-level students?

Jackie Harris

Great idea, but the 1Ls don't know what to ask. For next year, I would suggest giving the group leaders a more structured list of topics to go through.

Shawn Bratton

I was really happy to see that people still had personalities after their first year and were approachable.

Amy Sullivan

For me, it was vital to be able to find out what the 2Ls experiences were. It took away some of the myth. Also, I felt so much better when second- and third-year students actually approached me to ask me how I was doing.

John Smith

I felt more secure about what I was doing after orientation and talking to my group leader.

Anonymous

My leader was not really prepared to talk freely, and we didn't know what to ask.

Walleeta Barnes

I had a very energetic and excited group leader. I learned a lot of what not to do without having to make the mistakes myself.

Stacey Johnson

The group leader related great experiences. That gives me a path to follow or know not to follow.

Have an idea?

Strictly Hearsay is a regular feature that gives students an opportunity to speak out on a subject affecting law students. Submit ideas for Strictly Hearsay topics to linda_daniels@mindspring.com.